

REMARKS

The Final Office Action mailed August 24, 2007, rejected claims 20-43. An interview with Examiner Tran was held on December 12, 2007. Applicants make clarifying amendments to the claims to emphasize certain features already recited in the claims. The Applicants also add new claim 44. The amendments add no new matter. Claims 20-44 are now pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants thank Examiner Tran for participating in a telephonic examiner's interview on December 12, 2007, in which Stephen Schaefer participated on behalf of Applicants. During the interview the outstanding anticipation rejection of claim 20 was discussed, as well as the reference upon which the rejection was based. No agreement was reached, but the Examiner agreed that Applicants' positions will be duly considered in a response.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS: CLAIMS 20, 21, 24, 29, 30, 32, 33, 36, 41 AND 42

To advance prosecution, Applicants make clarifying amendments to the claims to expressly recite limitations implicitly contained in the claims. As such, these amendments are not made for reasons related to patentability, and in particular are not made to distinguish the cited references. Applicants believe that the claims were patentable prior to these clarifying amendments. In particular, independent claim 20 has been amended to recite "receiving . . . an alert message . . . creating . . . one or more distribution lists . . . from stored application-to-role assignment information and from stored user-to-role assignment information . . . [and] issuing. . . a first notification message to a communication device corresponding to each user in a first group of users, the first group of users consisting of users in one of the one or more distribution lists that share at least one role with the computer application that generated the alert message." Independent claim 32 has been amended in a similar manner. The aforementioned language does not impose a particular order on the recited steps; the steps may be performed out of the order recited in claims 20 and 32. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the

specification and the claims themselves prior to amendment. As such, these amendments introduce no new matter.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112: CLAIMS 20 AND 32

The Examiner rejected claims 20 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as containing subject matter not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The Examiner also rejected claims 20 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as containing subject matter not described in such a way as to enable one skilled in the pertinent art to make and/or use the invention. Specifically, the Examiner argues that the specification does not adequately describe or enable “the distribution list being generated, **without requiring users to select notification messages they are to receive**, by identifying, from stored application-to-role assignment information and from stored user-to-role assignment information” (See Final Office Action, pg. 3.) While Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejections, to advance prosecution Applicants have removed the aforementioned limitation. As such, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the 112 rejections.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND 103: CLAIMS 20-43

Claims 20-26, 28-38, and 40-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Faour et al. (“Faour”), U.S. Patent No. 6,857,017. Of these, claims 20 and 32 are independent claims. The remaining dependent claims 27, 31, 39 and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Faour in view of Zothner, U.S. Patent No. 6,751,657.

Faour discloses a system for customizing user displays on a computer. (See Faour, Abstract.) One or more applications generate events (i.e., messages indicating that some type of predetermined event has occurred), which are forwarded to an event router. (See Faour, col. 2, lines 54 – 55.) A table stored within the event router contains a list of types of events which are to be routed. (See Faour, col. 4, lines 55 – 60; FIG. 4.) By use of the event router, recipients can register to receive messages of various types; when a specified event type arrives at the router, the identification of the recipient indicates where the message will be sent. (See Faour, col. 4, lines 59 – col. 5, line 2.) The event router may also send events to event handlers, such as

alert managers. (*See* Faour, col. 3, lines 1 – 26.) Using a set of rules, alert managers determine which events to forward to users. (*See* Faour, col. 3, lines 30 – 33.) Users may select elements (i.e., items of information sent to the user) that are to be displayed on their computer (*See* Faour, col. 5, lines 39 – 41 and col. 6, lines 13 – 16.)

Specifically, in FIG. 6 Faour illustrates event handlers supplying events to a customer relationship monitor (CRM) application. (*See* Faour, col. 5, line 64 – col. 6, line 2; FIG. 6.) Each user registers with the CRM and is assigned a role that determines the event groups that a user may display. (*See* Faour, col. 6, lines 12 – 14.) Within each group, a user may select which elements are actually to be displayed on the computer in a dashboard window, allowing the user to customize the display. (*See* Faour, col. 6, lines 14 – 16.) The CRM maintains tables of all users that may access elements of the system, the role of each user, and the display list of elements that the user desires to see. (*See* Faour, col. 6, lines 17 – 20; FIG. 7.)

Faour does not disclose or suggest the subject matter of Applicants' amended claim 20. Faour does not disclose or suggest a method for issuing notification messages to users of a computer network, which includes "creating, . . . one or more distribution lists of users to receive notification messages pertaining to at least one of the multiple different computer applications, each distribution list being generated, by identifying, from stored application-to-role assignment information and from stored user-to-role assignment information, one or more users who share in common at least one role with one or more of the multiple different computer applications"

By contrast, Faour discloses storing a table of event types and recipients registered to receive messages of various types. (*See* Faour, col. 4, line 55 – col. 5, line 2; FIG. 4.) When an event arrives at the event router, the router uses the list to determine which recipients, if any, have registered to receive the event and transmits the message accordingly. (*See* Faour, col. 4, lines 59 – col. 5, line 2.) Faour also teaches assigning users a role that determines the event groups that they may display. (*See* Faour, col. 6, lines 12 – 14.) Faour does not disclose or suggest determining a predefined group of users from a message distribution list derived from a role-to-user assignment and from an application-to-role assignment. The roles disclosed by Faour are used to determine which event groups may be displayed on a user's screen, not to generate a message distribution list as recited in claim 20. Moreover, Faour makes no mention of application-to-role assignment; Faour's table only includes "[a] column [that] defines the user roles which have access to those elements." (*See* Faour, col. 6, lines 29-33.)

For these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 20 defines subject matter that is patentable over Faour, as do dependent claims 21-31. Applicants further submit that independent claim 32 is also patentable over Faour at least for the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 20, as are dependent claims 33-43. In addition, the reference cited in connection with the obviousness rejections of the dependent claims do not overcome the above-discussed deficiencies of Faour with respect to Applicants' independent claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the anticipation and obviousness rejections of claims 20-43 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that claims 20-44 are in condition for allowance, and request that the Examiner issue a notice of allowance.

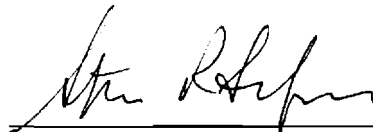
It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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